

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 18 are pending. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meijer et al. (US 2003/0108591A1). Applicant has cancelled claims 14 and 15 thereby obviating this § 103(a) rejection. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that the cancellation of claims is solely for the purposes of advancing the prosecution of this case and not for reasons relating to patentability. Applicant intends to pursue these claims in a continuation application and will provide reasons for patentability over the Meijer reference in preliminary remarks submitted with that continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-13 and 16-18 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of the application and timely allowance of the pending claims, i.e. claims 1-13 and 16-18.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if such would advance the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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